

S. First Policy
5/10 51~~CONFIDENTIAL~~June 13th, 1959COCOM Document No. 3415.62/2COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONGERMAN PROPOSAL TO REDEFINE ITEM 1562 -TANTALUM ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS N.E.S.June 9th, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM 3415.62/1.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the German proposal to redefine Item 1562. He invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities.

2. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate said that his authorities agreed with the description given in the German Memorandum of the four types of capacitors and their characteristics. The first three types mentioned were manufactured in the United Kingdom but his authorities considered that the third type (wet sintered capacitors) had important military uses and they did not agree with the German opinion that such uses were improbable. The Delegate said that his authorities could accept the German redefinition proposal if sub-paragraph (b) were amended to read:

"(b) Sintered electrolytic capacitors."

3. The FRENCH Delegate said that his authorities agreed with the broad lines of the German Memorandum. Types 1 and 2 (those constructed with foils and the Wendel type) could not be considered as tantalum capacitors because they used sodium carbonate for the electrolyte whereas types 3 and 4 (wet and dry sintered capacitors) usually used sulphuric acid for the electrolyte. Types 1 and 2 were therefore only classical types of capacitors in which aluminium was replaced by tantalum. The third type had a liquid electrolyte and any malformation in its construction might result in a leakage of the sulphuric acid which would put the capacitor out of action. Thus this type of capacitor could not be stocked and therefore had no military uses.

4. The ITALIAN Delegate said that his authorities could accept the German redefinition proposal because of the negligible strategic value of the capacitors ~~by~~ ^{excluded} by the temperature cut-off.

5. The CANADIAN Delegate said that his authorities could accept the German redefinition proposal.

6. The DANISH, JAPANESE and NETHERLANDS Delegates said that they would associate themselves with the opinion of the majority of the Committee and the BELGIAN Delegate joined the majority ad referendum.

7. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that he had no final instructions as his authorities had not yet completed their technical review.

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8. The GERMAN Delegate thanked Delegates for their views and the amount of support his proposal had received so far. His authorities agreed that types 1 and 2 were manufactured primarily for civil uses but there were some special types of tantalum foil capacitors designed to operate at temperatures of 125°C. or more which were used for missiles and in the field of military electronics. Normal types of capacitors were not designed to operate at temperatures above 85°C. Sub-paragraph (a) of the German redefinition proposal was worded to make sure that these military types were embargoed. The Delegate agreed in general terms with the views of his French colleague.

9. The FRENCH Delegate commented that the point made by his German colleague was already covered by Item 1560, which embargoed:

"Electronic components ... operating:
(a) over the whole range of ambient temperatures extending
... to above plus 100°C. ..."

The French Delegation therefore felt that the redefinition proposal could be simplified by omitting sub-paragraph (a). Referring then to the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom, the Delegate said that the electrolyt could be either liquid or static in its case. Solid was the more recent term used to describe this second type, although it would perhaps be preferable to use the word dry since this was used in other contexts where the electrolyt was of the non-liquid type. The Delegate proposed that the most suitable wording for the redefinition of Item 1562 was as follows:

tantalum
"Dry sintered ~~electrolytic~~ capacitors, n.c.s."

He considered that the word dry was indispensable because it caught the military types.

10. The GERMAN Delegate commented that the United Kingdom amendment would retain type 3 under embargo whereas the German authorities suggested that the wet type should be excluded from embargo. He had available graphs showing the different electrical characteristics of the four types which Delegates could consult if they wished. Finally he urged the Delegates to obtain the final views of their authorities on all three positions: the original German redefinition proposal, the German proposal as amended by the United Kingdom and the French redefinition proposal.

11. The COMMITTEE agreed to continue the discussion on June 18th.

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